

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action in the present application. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuhara et al in view of Hinterlong et al.

Yuhara, et al. discloses a method and apparatus for aligning an optical fiber. Hinterlong et al. discloses a fiber optical array and a process for manufacturing such an array.

Claims 4, 5, 7-9 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Objected to claims 4, 5, 7 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and including amended wording to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and are therefore deemed allowable. Objected to claims 8 and 9 no longer depend from a rejected base claim and are also deemed to be allowable.

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Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 11 and 13-14 have been cancelled without prejudice. Previously withdrawn claims 15-24 have been cancelled without prejudice.

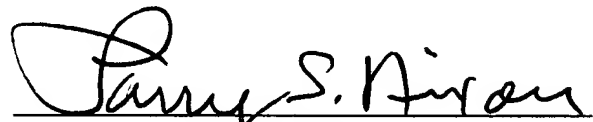
Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims as filed in the context of a continuation application.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims are deemed to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Larry S. Nixon", is written over a horizontal line.

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